

**U.S. Embassy Bahrain**  
**Demonstration Notice 01 UPDATE– January 4, 2014**

## UPDATE

**04 Jan: Due to possible violent protest activity along the Budaiya Highway Corridor we highly recommend that you avoid travel to Budaiya Highway west of the Burgerland roundabout for the remainder of the day**

Today, January 2, through Saturday, January 4, 2014, at an unknown time, a violent opposition group has planned to protest in the area of the Diplomatic Quarter (DQ). This is an unauthorized event. Anticipate that the road networks leading into and around this area will be affected. Expect increased police activity and heavy traffic. Clashes are likely in this area. **We highly recommend that you avoid travel to and around the DQ. Avoid this area (Orange circle).**

Tomorrow, January 3, 2014, after the noon prayers, a group has planned to protest at the United Nations Building in the Diplomatic Quarter. Expect heavy traffic. Avoid the area (Yellow Oval).

Tomorrow, January 3, 2014, 3:30PM, opposition groups have called for a peaceful demonstration to take place on Budaiya Highway from the Janussan roundabout to the Sar roundabout. Larger than normal crowd sizes are expected in the area. Anticipate heavier than normal traffic on Budaiya Highway in both directions. Anticipate that secondary roads will also experience significant delays due to the crowd size, volume of traffic, and police activity. There is a possibility that violent elements may attempt to disrupt the area after the peaceful demonstration. Avoid travel in this area from 3:00PM onward (Yellow circle).

There has been an escalation in street level civil disobedience activities such as Molotov attacks on police, oil poured across roadways, tire fires outside of traditional areas, and IEDs both real and fake, to disrupt and delay traffic across the country. United States citizens should keep current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times. If you encounter a large public gathering or demonstration, depart the vicinity immediately.

**It is important to note that there have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens in Bahrain to date.** That said, spontaneous and at times violent anti-government demonstrations occur in some neighborhoods, particularly at night and on weekends. These demonstrations have included blockades of major highways with burning debris and establishment of unofficial checkpoints. Participants have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used various other homemade weapons, including isolated use of improvised explosive devices. The Ministry of Interior maintains official checkpoints in some areas and routinely uses tear gas and stun grenades along with birdshot and other crowd control measures against demonstrators. Violent clashes between security forces and demonstrators can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning.

**Please see below for a map. Areas shaded in red are off-limits to U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members at all times. U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members are permitted to travel in the areas shaded in yellow during daylight hours only. The Embassy advises all Americans to avoid travel within red zones as a general rule whenever possible.**

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#) can be found. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. Download our free Smart Traveler app, available through [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.

In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The Embassy's [website](http://bahrain.usembassy.gov), <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>, includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). The Consular Section can be reached at [ManamaConsular@state.gov](mailto:ManamaConsular@state.gov).

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